

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a voice user interface for a user comprising:

enabling the user to specify character traits for a virtual host;

storing the specified character traits in a user profile having preference information for the user; and

generating a virtual host with a consistent personality in accordance with the specified character traits.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a tone of voice for the virtual host.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a speed of voice for the virtual host.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a background for the virtual host.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a sex for the virtual host.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining an accent for the virtual host.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the specified character traits comprise information defining a formality level of a conversational style for the virtual host.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the user profile further includes user interaction history information, the method further comprising: adjusting the conversational style based on the user interaction history information.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein adjusting comprises changing the formality level according to a level of user experience with the voice user interface.

Claims 19-55. (Canceled)